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H/Cons J

STRAFO 002/27

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ADVANCE COPY

X8 H/Liam Anderson

ZZ MILAN (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER)

Mr JENKINS  
Mr HARRINGTON

GRS 165

CONFIDENTIAL

PS/N 10 J.S.

FM UKDEL STRASBOURG 271530Z JUNE 85

TO FLASH FCO

PS/r MacFarlane, DUE  
(3)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 146 OF 27 JUNE .

AND TO FLASH MILAN (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER)

SPECTATOR VIOLENCE

1. EUROPEAN SPORTS MINISTERS MEETING IN STRASBOURG ON 27 JUNE AGREED ON A EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON VIOLENCE AT SPORTING EVENTS, IN PARTICULAR FOOTBALL MATCHES. THEY ASKED THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO ADOPT AND OPEN FOR SIGNATURE THE CONVENTION AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY IN ORDER THAT IT MIGHT COME INTO FORCE IN TIME FOR THE NEXT FOOTBALL SEASON. THEY ALSO REQUESTED ALL GOVERNMENTS ENTITLED TO DO SO TO BECOME PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. THE GERMANS HAVE ASKED US FOR SUFFICIENT TIME BEFORE FORMAL ADOPTION TO ALLOW THEM TO CONSULT THE LAENDER. THIS IS A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT. THEY ARE CONTENT THAT THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS ADOPT THE CONVENTION ON 22 JULY AND OPEN IT FOR SIGNATURE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. IF TWO OTHER COUNTRIES BESIDES OURSELVES SIGN QUICKLY THE CONVENTION WILL COME INTO FORCE BEFORE THE FIRST ROUND OF EUROPEAN MATCHES.

3. AGREED TEXT CLOSELY FOLLOWS THE UK DRAFT.

FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO NO. 10 DOWNING STREET FOR PS/PRIME MINISTER

LUSH

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SENT/RECD 271615Z STO/WJD

Charles.

You should be aware that Neil Macfarlane has been in Strasbourg today, discussing with other Council of Europe Sports Ministers a draft Convention or measures to prevent football violence. The telex states there is a good chance the Convention will be in operation before the start of the next season.

The Convention will try to bring up the existing CofE Recommendation on violence at sporting events. It seems doubtful if it will have much practical impact. But the UK, and the Dutch, have at least taken the lead in promoting concerted international action in this area. I'm afraid I don't have a text.

Mal Adair